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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1917.

LINCOLN ON WAR

No finer tribute could be paid Abraham Lincoln upon this birthday than a careful reading of his Gettysburg address or his second inaugural. Each year the homely but eloquent utterances of this great man are more widely recognized as classics of patriotism and Americanism.

In the present national crisis some of his thoughts upon war seem particularly timely. Take this, for an example:

War in any case is an exceptional from the habits as it is revolting from the sentiments of the American people. War in defense of national life is not immoral, and war in defense of independence is an inevitable part of the discipline of nations.

A WOMEN'S CITY CLUB

Women of Washington have seriously set about doing what the men so far have neglected to do, organize a city club. It may be that the field for a men's city club is not so fertile here because of the existence of many other clubs which perform somewhat similar functions. But there is a marked opportunity for such a club for women, with no competition of any sort.

The Women's City Club idea has been notably exemplified in Boston, where there is a commodious club house, and an organization of 4,500 members. Closer home than that is Baltimore, is a women's city club which is comparatively new, but already a pronounced success.

Modern economic conditions pave the way for such organizations. The essential of membership is not social, but solely that of achievement. Such a tie is new among women of this city. The women's clubs already here are organized for propaganda, along social lines, or to bring together women of particular interests. A city club, which would be a common meeting ground for women who are doing work in every line, "from art and business to motherhood," to quote the organizers, would serve as a clearing house for the activities of these other organizations and would help bring about that democracy among women who are achieving things and working toward definite ends, which already has been accomplished by men through their trade and civic organizations.

A DEMOCRATIC PROGRAM OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

Provision for six months' military training for every American youth when he reaches his nineteenth year, contained in the universal military training bill reported to the Senate favorably by the Committee on Military Affairs, is a reasonable compliance with the demands of military experts for building up an American reserve army which would be of some use in case of war. The only objection they can have to it is that the period of training is too short. The answer to that is that the measure stands a better chance of passage as it is, and it is infinitely better than any proposal yet seriously considered by Congress.

It is estimated that 400,000 young men would come within the scope of this provision yearly, thus leaving us with at least 3,000,000 men in nine years, who could intelligently comply with the demand overnight, for a force to mobilize quickly for the defense of our territory. The only persons who can find objections to the program are the pacifists who can see no shadow of war, even in the present beleaguered times. The number of these obstinate citizens, we firmly believe, is being reduced daily, under pressure of a demonstration of how quickly and unexpectedly, and from what remote causes, this country may be called upon to defend its rights and its honor.

There would be no economic loss, probably a distinct economic gain, from carrying out such a program. The young man who submits to six months of intensive military training would come away, not only imbued with his duty to his nation, but better equipped physically, mentally, and morally to cope with the problems of trade, industry, and profession. He would form friendships and ties of great value. He would learn more efficiency than he could gain by years of lectures and experience if left to shift for himself.

A standing army, it has been clearly shown, is too expensive a thing for this country to maintain. A volunteer army cannot be had at the present wages paid soldiers. Both plans are more militaristic, more out of keeping with our ideals, than that of a force of men who come together on an equal basis to do their bit for the security of their nation. Both the other proposals savor of the militaristic. The universal training, and it is to be universal under

the proposed bill, would mean a social as well as a military gain to this nation.

THE GOVERNMENT AS AN EMPLOYER

It is a matter of common knowledge that the cost of living is high and is growing higher. The foreign demand for every American product that could be exported has boosted the price not only of those products, but of all other supplies that are consumed at home. Where the cost of living goes upward and the war scale remains stationary, there is hardship and sometimes tragedy.

The Democratic platform of 1916 contained the following plank on Government employment:

We hold that the life, health, and strength of the men, women, and children of the nation are its greatest asset, and that in the conservation of these the Federal Government, wherever it acts as the employer of labor, should both on its own account and as an example put into effect the following principles of just employment:

1. A living wage for all employees.

Private employers, including some of the great corporations, have not waited for the Government to set this example. The Secretary of Labor recently published an impressive list of the establishments which have materially raised the wages of their employees. The people affected are numbered by the million and the increase in wages is measured by the hundreds of millions of dollars. The question now is whether the Federal Government, recognizing the changed conditions, shall follow the example set by private business or shall remain conspicuous as a bad employer of labor.

Measures are now pending in the legislative appropriation bill and the District bill, now in conference, as well as in the Postoffice bill, now in the Senate, to increase the wages of the poorest paid Government employees. This is the first opportunity for the responsible majority in Congress to redeem the platform pledge of the recent Presidential campaign. Under all the circumstances, further suggestions would seem unnecessary.

WHY THIS BELATED RUSH?

Two interpretations may be placed upon the rush of nationals of the United States: They may be actuated by repulsion for the final excesses of frightfulness and by loyalty to the land of their adoption, or they may be impelled by a desire to get in under the bars before war is declared and thus avoid internment in detention camps.

While we prefer to believe that the great majority of these applicants for "first papers" are moved by the higher reason, the fact cannot be ignored that they are seized with Americanism very suddenly after viewing complacently thirty months of warfare as directed from Berlin with a barbarity differing not at all in nature and little in degree from that now proclaimed openly against the whole world. A complacency which could swallow the partnership with the Turk in his butchery of Armenians could swallow anything.

Nor can the fact be escaped that there will be individuals who will use the cloak of their new citizenship to wage futile war against Americans within their own gates. We must protest with all the vehemence of which we are capable against the folly of admitting as immigrants, much less as declared citizens, sailors from the self-interested German and Austrian steamships in our harbors. These come direct from committing what amounts to an act of war against us by wrecking those ships to ask to be received into the sacred bonds of liberty and fellowship. Such a thing is unthinkable.

EPISCOPAL PENSION FUND

Many religious denominations already have launched campaigns to raise funds with which to pension supernumerary clergymen, and to provide for their widows and children. A study of the average salary of ministers is sufficient indication of the sore need for such provision. In some denominations this average runs less than \$400, and a recent study of a group of the larger and richer denominations showed that even their clergymen were paid an average of about \$600.

Impetus to the movement is given by the announcement that \$5,000,000 will be available by March 1 for the Episcopal church's pension fund. Bishop Lawrence, of Massachusetts, has just made public the success of the effort of that denomination to raise this sum. Aside from its interest to other religious denominations, it has a special significance to Washington. One of the men who prepared the pension plan to be adopted by the Episcopalians is Herbert D. Brown, chief of the United States Bureau of Efficiency, who compiled the retirement bill for Washington school teachers and who, for many months, has been at work on a scientific contributory pension plan for Government employees.

The Episcopal church pension fund was incorporated in New York and

placed under the jurisdiction of the insurance department of that State. This effort to obtain the advice of competent actuaries (for some of the best known insurance experts in the country worked with Mr. Brown) indicates the more thoroughgoing methods now employed in effecting pension plans of this sort. Some of the earlier efforts, especially those to pension college professors, and certain city pension provisions, like the police and fire department funds in New York, have proved cumbersome and costly because they were not founded on scientific pension principles. That, too, was the principal difficulty of early pension schemes advanced for school teachers here and for the civil service employees. No effort was made to reckon the cost of administration ten or twenty years ahead.

The Episcopal church not only has set an example to other denominations and other groups of employers in what they ought to do in the matter of pensions; but it has demonstrated how they ought to go about doing it.

GERMANY'S NEW TRAP

We profoundly distrust any advance of the German imperial government proposing that the American Government should suggest measures of safety for American ships in the Atrocity Zone.

In the first place it proposes an impossibility; no system could be devised which would permit at the same time the prosecution of the German campaign of frightfulness and the immunization of our vessels.

In the second place, the acceptance by us of any special safeguards for our benefit would be a base and cowardly abandonment of the principles of neutral rights, of the general claim to humane restraints, which are at once the justification and the foundation of our protest and our severance of diplomatic intercourse.

Finally, Germany asks us, or pretends to ask us—for the overtone is palpably insincere—to suggest a solution of the situation when the duty and the power of solving it lie alike with her. Why should we offer any new program when Germany can sweep the whole difficulty away by merely obeying the well-established and heretofore universally recognized laws of maritime warfare?

Like the false-hearted "peace" move of December 12, the present specious overture is designed to place the United States in a false position. Its purpose is to trap us into assuming a responsibility in premises where none naturally belongs to us—to relieve Germany of the onus of the hideous crimes which she has announced and which she is committing.

In a secondary sense, the move is planned to secure delay as respects any real activity on our part. The hope is that we shall be entangled in a new procedure of note writing, this time through the slow medium of a third foreign office, so that long drawn out negotiations may postpone war while the U-boats continue to strew the seas with the dead and the wreckage of neutral ships.

No possible good can come from this new and essentially insolent as well as deceitful act of diplomatic jugglery. The only notice the American Government should take of it is to record such courteous acknowledgment of its receipt as may be due the Swiss government as intermediary. No formal reply need be made even in the form of rejection. Germany knows perfectly well how the safety of neutral ships and citizens may be provided for and we know she knows it. This is all that is necessary.

AS TO A WAR REFERENDUM

Passing over the lack of patriotism in any effort to secure a referendum on war when the country is to every appearance being dragged into war by an adversary who will take no other answer, it seems needful to call attention to a misstatement of fact by the American Union Against Militarism in agitating such a propaganda. The Union says:

Note—In establishing her war zone Germany has offered safe passage for all American passenger ships which keep to a prescribed course and which our Government guarantees free from contraband.

This the German government has not done. It has signified its willingness to tolerate the presence of one American ship per week each way between a prescribed English and American port, provided each ship sails on a day specified by Berlin, sticks to a path mapped out by the German naval lords and is painted in stripes "like a zebra," as an indignant official of the American line put it—or like a convict.

Germany has not "offered safe passage to all American passenger ships" under all conditions, and any campaign to create the popular impression that she is at least viciously misleading. It renders the position of the American Government more difficult without in any way rendering war less likely. The truth is that war is apparently being forced upon Washington by a Prussianism that is beyond the reach of any referendum, and any other statement of the case by an American citizen or citizen is plain disloyalty.

Don Marquis' Column

Arthur Somers Roche speaks in the Satepost of a man with a "round, scrappy jaw." For even this relief from the square, fighting jaw of fiction, many thanks.

The most resolute person we ever knew had a receding chin, chewed gum and breathed through his mouth.

At All Events.

So God's command answer, my Land, Arrived, America, heart now and hand! Colors outflung, every bell swung. For the great flag a free people gives tongue.

Crimson and white bled in light, Flashes, snaked in blue—banish the night!

Since we must fight now for the right, Myriads march in their justified might. Each with a prayer, every blade bare— Back with the foes who Columbia dare! Scourge in the blast, whelm them at last; Sons of the sire, to the brunt and hold fast!

Final resort, hold into court, Leaps the republic with turret and fort.

Rouse, ye that sleep! For them that reap Sound the loud summons from deep into deep! Let the bolts fall, let the guns call Following fleet and short—Gor for us all!

Fifty States one, sea-wall and Sun— His will, Who trumpets the onfall, be done.

Giants awake! The world shake Under the thunder, the morning shall break. Stead and strong flood then your song— By the right, Forward! Down, down with the wrong!

—By President M. W. Stryker, of Hamilton College, in the recently Published *Poet's Almanac*.

Many young men have asked themselves on occasion, no doubt: "Can there be such a thing as a girl being engaged to marry a young man, and that young man not being engaged to marry that girl?"

And for some time Americans said to themselves: "It seems by her actions that Germany is at war with America, but that America is not at war with Germany."

We are not one of those who believe that when Germany has been defeated, the Kaiser should be abolished. They should be trimmed to fit into cages and kept in zoological gardens, where one may look at them on Sundays as one drinks one's beer.

Just a Filler.

They have asked me to write a poem. "One of those free verse affairs, you know."

Great heavens! To fill up space, and in ten minutes. Me—a poet?

Scoundrels! Do they not know that thus disturbed My genius, like to a molten mass of running lava

Overflows—and like as not will wreak Destruction? How comes that mud and clay like they can be. Acclaimed as human?

Little do they know that churning in my brain, all my thoughts are. Eager, like the horses in "Ben-Hur" are.

Madly coursing thoughts on War, peace, suffrage, burning homes; whole Outraged countries and their hordes Of wandering ruined peoples; kings, princes.

Spies and plots galore; my relatives, and enemies; My friends, and those whom I love and adore.

Larger pay; also are thoughts on dresses, and spring hats, mixed madly with the rights of subs and teppis; All while I try to do my work and half decide to write.

What shall I wear the coming night anon? All these, yes, these, and more, are now the thoughts Which cascade through my brain.

And yet, In these tough times (excuse the slang) Those short-haired ones, Who selfishly think only of one thing.

At one short time, descend on me To write Free verse! And celebrate the day—this time of cataclysm.

In verse known as libre! Scoundrels! But here it is. They have asked me to write a poem.

—FLORENCE.

The Ultimate Ultimate in Praline.

It was a Bemba's chiefest praise to be called "Cicero's apprentice." From "Poet and Painter—a Renaissance Fantasy," by Richard Aldington, in the Dial.

What R. O. C. wonders, did Bembo consider his chief and chief praise?

SHIPBOARD SEEKS TO BLEND U.S. VESSELS

Takes Initial Step Toward Creation of Government-Owned Merchant Marine.

The Federal shipping board has taken the first practical step toward organizing and building up a Government-owned merchant marine.

In a letter to the President, Chairman Denman asks President Wilson to turn over to it idle army transports for service in the coast trade between Atlantic and Pacific ports through the Panama canal.

American Vessels Withdrawn.

Mr. Denman points out that nearly all American-built vessels which have been drawn for more profitable charters or sold to foreign flags, and he asks that vessels which can be spared from military service be utilized. The board seeks to get two out-of-date army-built transports which the War Department has been authorized to sell, the Meade and the Crook.

Mr. Denman says:

Situation Needs Remedying.

"Nearly all of the American-built tonnage, with its participation in the statutory monopoly of the coastwise trade, which has been serving the needs of producers and consumers on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts through the Panama canal, has been withdrawn for more profitable charters, leaving the United States without any American commercial need or sold to foreign flags."

"We understand that the War Department has several vessels capable of carrying these products and serving the urgent needs of these producers and consumers. Thousands of tons of products are awaiting the return of these facilities or have been subjected to higher rail rates. The concentration of these resources on transcontinental railways on the mountains traffic has intensified this need."

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled

Today.

Weekly meeting, Central Labor Union, Typographical Union, 422 G street northwest, 8 p. m.

Continuation of opening exercises, Holy Family Day, St. Mary's, 14th street northwest, 8 p. m.

Cord party, for benefit of St. Ingles's Mission, St. Ingles's Mission, 14th street northwest, 8 p. m.

Lecture, "Pythagoras' Law of Vibration, Fate, and Destiny," Miss Louise C. Powell, the Portland, 14th street northwest, 8 p. m.

Address, "The Federal Reserve Law and Proposed Amendments Therein," by John G. Capers, Society of Medical Jurisprudence, University Club, 14th street northwest, 8 p. m.

Meeting of District Division, United Daughters of Confederacy, 1606 Twelfth street northwest, 8 p. m.

Meeting of army women, Raucher's, 10-30 a. m.

Midway baccalaureate exercises, administration building, 202 G street northwest, George Washington University, 8 p. m.

Address, "Lincoln's Birthday," by J. M. Brien, school extension specialist, United States Bureau of Education, Gage School, 7-45 p. m.

Concert by United States Marine Band Orchestra, United States Marine Barracks, 7-30 p. m.

Joint meeting of New Hampshire Association and Marine's Association, Public Library, 8 p. m.

Lincoln Birthday celebration, by Capitol Hill Literary Society, Ingram Memorial Church, Massachusetts avenue and Tenth street northwest, 7-20 p. m.

Meeting of Northeast Washington Citizens' Association, Northeast Temple, 8 p. m.

"Get-together luncheon," by the students of Stanford University, New Exhibit, 12-30 p. m.

Third annual banquet of District Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Wallis' Hotel, 14th street northwest, 8 p. m.

Devotional exercises, Myrtle's Miner Normal School, 8 p. m.

Lecture, "The Lady of the Lighthouse," by Mrs. Winifred Holt, at the auspices of lecture committee, Theodorus Bailey Hotel, Mason House, Women's section, Navy League, at home of Mrs. Edson Bradley, 4 p. m.

Dance by Louisiana natives of Washington, Masonic Temple, 8 p. m.

Annual Junior Prom of Catholic University of America, in Graduate Hall, 8 p. m.

National Birthday exercises, by Congressmen Charles C. Carlin, at Park Lane, Aurora Heights' Citizens' Association, 7-30 p. m.

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HURRY BOOSTING MORTALITY RATES

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